

~~SECRET~~

CIACO NID 81 [REDACTED]

October 15, 1981

POLAND: Criticism of Leadership

Strong criticism of the party leadership by hardliners this week may be part of a campaign to reconvene the party congress, a necessary step to dismiss First Secretary Kania. [REDACTED]

Only the party congress is empowered to replace the party first secretary, and hardliners presumably hope that exasperated party members would reject the "ineffective" Kania. [REDACTED]

Delegates to a caucus of the party's Warsaw chapter, which was attended by three Politburo members, accused the leadership of being isolated from the rank and file and of not fulfilling the decisions of the party congress held last summer. One of the speakers urged that a national party conference meet, and well-informed contacts [REDACTED] view the caucus as preliminary skirmishing over the question of whether to recall the party congress, which never formally adjourned. [REDACTED]

Kania probably retains sufficient support to fend off the hardliners' lobbying effort, but this latest sign of divisiveness in the party ensures that the Central Committee session, scheduled for tomorrow, will be stormy. A senior official, moreover, recently predicted that the Central Committee might make some high-level personnel changes. [REDACTED]

Soviet Comment

Soviet Politburo member Suslov has taken a harder line than his colleagues by hinting at the possibility of military intervention in Poland. Suslov said yesterday that Poland can rely upon the "fraternal assistance" of the USSR and its allies. "Fraternal assistance" is a phrase the Soviets use to describe their military intervention in Czechoslovakia in 1968. [REDACTED]

A commentary in *Pravda* on Monday that presumably represented the consensus of the Soviet Politburo did not mention fraternal assistance and implied that the Poles must solve their problems themselves. The discrepancy is likely to reinforce the view of many Poles that those Soviets willing to consider military intervention remain a minority. [REDACTED]

Approved for Release
Date [REDACTED] 1994

325
~~SECRET~~